

# Nature Romp



## Objective

To gain an appreciation of nature and the environment.



## Activity Description

Students will take a nature walk, make observations, and collect natural objects for an art activity.



## Materials Needed

- Bags (e.g., old lunch or grocery bags)
- Paint
- Smocks
- Crayons
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Construction paper
- Large sheet of paper



## Key Vocabulary Words

Nature  
Environment  
Habitat



## Duration

2 hours



## Skills Used

Communication  
Observation/classification  
Motor skills



Science



Art



## Activity

**Step 1:** Draw a chart on a large piece of cardboard or poster board with headings that describe several types of natural objects that students could find outdoors. Headings might include rocks, leaves, flowers, bugs, animals, nuts (see below). Attach a sample of each of these objects (e.g., for flower, it can be a flower petal or seed). Discuss each of the

objects and tell students their mission will be to find evidence of these items in the outdoors. Examples of the types of evidence students might bring back that would fit into the category headings could include pebbles, leaves or needles, seeds, acorns, feathers, and twigs.

**Step 2:** Bring students outdoors into the school yard, a field, a patch of woods, a garden, or other natural area, no matter how

Rocks	Leaves	Flowers	Bugs	Animals	Nuts

small. Distribute a bag to students, and tell them they are on a scavenger hunt to find evidence of the items discussed in class. Please ensure that students only collect items that have fallen to the ground or are dead; no live plants, flowers, insects, or other organisms should be collected, nor should bark be peeled off trees. Teachers might have to work closely with students to help them locate and identify appropriate items.

**Step 3:** While students are collecting objects, ask them for their observations. You might want to talk about their discoveries, focusing on colors, senses, seasons, or animal lives (e.g., hibernation, food).

**Step 4:** Regroup in the classroom and help students spread everything they've collected on a table. Ask the students to categorize their items into the headings on the chart you prepared earlier. Compare the different colors, sizes, and shapes of each of the items. Group everyone's objects together and attach them to the posterboard, or let students keep their own pile and proceed to Step 5.

**Step 5:** Prepare for painting and gluing by putting on smocks and gathering the art supplies (e.g., paper or cardboard, glue, crayons, paint, construction paper, and scissors). Ask students to create artwork, using objects they collected, that depicts the natural environment they just explored. Students can glue natural objects directly onto the paper, or they can create a sculpture. Students could also create cut-outs of animals or plants that they observed.

**Step 6:** Allow the artwork to dry and hang posters around the classroom to bring a little of the environment indoors!

**Teachers:** Please note that many federal and state land management agencies prohibit or discourage collecting living or non-living items in a natural environment. Depending on your situation, you might want to consider directing students to draw or paint the live organisms they find as a substitute for the real thing.



### Assessment

1. Ask students if they found anything outside that they had never seen before. If so, can they explain what it is?
2. Review some of the specific items found and what their purpose is.
3. Ask students to share what they like best in nature.



### Enrichment

1. Schedule a day trip to a local nature center where students can participate in further outdoor education.
2. Adopt a specific tree in your schoolyard and observe how it changes through the seasons. Have students draw the tree during different seasons.
3. Participate in an environmental education workshop and obtain copies of the conservation/environmental education activity guides entitled *Project WILD K-12*, *Project WILD Aquatic Education*, or *Project Learning Tree*. Project WILD's state coordinators and their facilitators conduct workshops (usually 6 hours long) for educators within their state. The activity guides are provided to those who participate in the workshops. They include numerous indoor and outdoor hands-on activities related to the environment, with a focus on wildlife. Other classroom materials are available without participating in the workshops. For more information, and to find out how to get information in your state, visit the Web site <[www.projectwild.org/main.html](http://www.projectwild.org/main.html)>. You can also contact the Project WILD National Office at 707 Conservation Lane, Suite 305, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, Phone: 301 527-8900, Fax: 301 527-8912; or e-mail: [info@projectwild.org](mailto:info@projectwild.org).